

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-8 and 15-20 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 15-17 and 20 without introducing any new matter; and cancels Claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 21-25.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 2-5, 10, 15-18 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1-5 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the Admitted State of the Prior Art ("ASPA") in view of Miyakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,995). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Takamori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,007) in view of ASPA.

Claims 6-8 and 19 were allowed and Claims 10, 15-18 and 20 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and/or if rewritten in independent form. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response, Claims 15-17 and 20 are amended to correct the noted informalities. Claim 15 is amended to delete the limitation "wherein a second exhaust flow rate is larger than a first exhaust flow rate." Claim 16 is amended to recite a "timer" instead of "timing" and to delete "setting in advance a timing" and "based on experiments performed in advance" and to correct minor formalities. Claim 17 is amended to correct a minor formality and Claim 20 is amended to clarify an issue on antecedent basis regarding the control portion.

In light of their formal nature, the changes to the claims do not raise a question of new matter.

The present Amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116, which after Final Rejection permits entry of amendments canceling rejected claims or

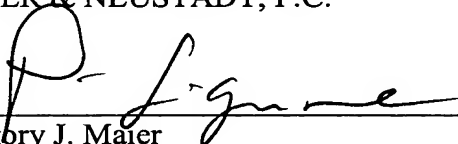
complying with requirements of form set forth in a previous Office Action. As the present amendment merely cancels rejected Claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 21-25 and corrects allowable Claims 15-18 and 20 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection as suggested in the previous Office Action, it is respectfully requested that the present Amendment be entered.

Consequently, in view of the present Amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 6-8 and 15-20 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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